

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, UK and Ireland, European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2001 / 2020

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



*Minister at announcement for €6.4m funding for CLUGG June 2021 / UNESCO Revalidation October 202*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 10 staffs including 1 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** 711,606 across a selection of Geopark sites in Fermanagh & Cavan (Visitor Counter figures)

**Number of Geopark events:** 22 in person events with 1147 participants, and 5 online events with 458 participants

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** Earth Sciences programme delivered to 7 Primary schools, 271 pupils.

**Number of Geopark press release:** 14

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2021

#### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

Participation in Transnational UNESCO Global Geoparks Working Group

- Attendance at EGN Digital Meeting (April ) and GGN Digital Conference (September)
- Chair, Attendance by all representatives and presentation at UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geopark annual meeting
- Chair, Attendance by all representatives and Presentation at Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Forum.
- Mentoring for a number of UK UGGps including Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UGGp, Antrim

Geopark Project and Arran Geopark Project. Initial discussions with other interested areas including North Somerset, East Yorkshire, Kent Downs AONB and Charnwood Forest.

- Active participation and sharing of knowledge with EGN Education Working Group and SD Goals working group

### **Management and Financial Status**

- Movement of team to new Geopark Office in Blacklion
- Geopark Development Plan 2021-2031 completed and adopted
- Additional Geopark budget added to core funding to include provision for promotion and maintenance
- Financial and budgetary alignments on-going as Geopark team continue to manage significant core and project specific external budgets in both the UK/Ireland.

### **Geoconservation**

- CLLUGG is a strategic partner in an INTERREG VIA Project 'Collaborative Action for the Natura Network' (CANN) which focuses on a range of conservation, land management actions and climate change actions for Cuilcagh Mountain, a site of International Geological Significance.
- Actively facilitating research and developing partnerships with Geological Survey Ireland, Geological Survey Northern Ireland, and local hydrogeologists on groundwater research and monitoring within the Shannon-Erne Catchment.
- Development and implementation of fixed point landscape photography monitoring system across the Geopark ensuring cascading of data to relevant National Recording Centres.
- Significant contribution to Local Authority Biodiversity & Climate Change & Sustainable Development Strategies, with the Geopark highlighted as exemplar of best practice in such fields with Geodiversity specifically mentioned for the first time in these policy documents.
- Significant contribution and engagement in new Geodiversity Charter for Northern Ireland, Geopark selected as a case study in a number of thematic areas.
- Significant contribution to Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) Science Strategy, UNESCO Global Geopark development now included within Science for Society science programme

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- On-going development of collaborative cross-border Rural Development funded, 'Cuilcagh Mountain Experience' project VALUE to include for proposed a range of capital and resource developments including creation of new recreational infrastructure, visitor amenities and a Geopark business engagement programme.
- Successful implementation of €350,000 worth of sustainable outdoor recreation projects to include upgrade and development of new sustainable recreation products and initiatives in partnership with local Geopark Communities.
  - Funding allocation of €6.4million from Fáilte Ireland (National Tourism Body – Ire) and Cavan

County Council to develop new Geopark Discovery Centre at Shannon Pot and additional trail development and geological interpretation at Cavan Burren Park, key Geosites within the Geopark

- Delivery of Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Strategic funding for development of additional trails within Geopark to total value of €80,000
- 2021 saw the awarding of Green Flag Status to Cavan Burren Park. The awards announced by An Taisce Environmental Education are given out to Ireland’s top parks and best gardens.

**New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction**

- Successful completion of the UK National Pilot and award winning £200,000 ‘Cuilcagh 2 Cleenish Community Heritage Project. The project successfully levered additional funding of £353,235 to develop, 10km of new Community Walking Trails, heritage focused events engaging 1471 local people and an outdoor learning programme engaging 350 students.
- Geopark Guides successful completion of accredited, Open College Network, Tour guide and storytelling training enabling diverse heritage focused event programme delivery.

**Strategic partnership**

- New Governance and Management structures with aligned strategic and operational functions are working well.
- Formulation of multi-disciplinary, multi-agency stakeholder groups to work collaboratively to plan, develop and implement sustainable land management, development and conservation initiatives as key Geopark sites – Cuilcagh Mountain, Lough Navar Forest, Castle Caldwell Forest, Tully Castle, Cavan Burren Park & Shannon Pot.

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**Promotional activities**

- Extensive promotion of all facets of the Geopark’s Management and Operation in a variety of Local, National and International Media – Radio, Television and Film.

- The Geopark launched its new website in July 2021.
- The Geopark also launched its new Communications and Marketing Strategy 2021-2023 which focuses on key target markets for Geopark and roll out of new brand.

Platform	Impressions	Engagement
Facebook	1,910,675	83,427
Instagram	170,239	4,656

Twitter	103,851	2,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>2184765</b>	<b>90,752</b>

#### 4. CONTACTS

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